24

A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE *TRUE* and *FALSE* MINISTERS IN Their Calling, Lives and Doctrine,

that all who desire after the Lord may have a right Discerning between the True and False, that they may truly know whom to hear, and what Church to be gathered into, and wherein to have true Communion with Christ, the Head of his Church.

And also a *FAITHFUL WARNING* to the *Teachers* and *People* of *England*.

By Nicholas Knight.

For I have not sent them, saith the Lord, yet they prophesie a Lye in my Name, that I might cast you out, and that ye might perish, both ye, and the Prophets that prophesie unto you, Jer. 27. 15. *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their Brethren, like unto thee, and I will put my Words in his Mouth, and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him; and whosoever shall not hearken unto my Words, which he shall speak in my Name, I will require it of him: But the Prophet that shall presume to speak a Word in my Name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that speaketh in the Name of other Gods, even the same Prophet shall dye,* Deut. 18. 18, 19, 20.

Printed in the Year 1675.

Friends,

WHereas our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ hath fore-warned of the false Christs and false Prophets that should arise before the End, &c. and say, Lo here, and lo there is Christ, who if it were possible, should deceive the very Elect; but go not forth, for the Kingdom of Heaven was within; and the Apostle admonisheth to hearken to the Word nigh, in the Heart and in the Mouth: And accordingly, I having seen the fulfilling thereof in these our Dayes, and through Mercy have been brought to a Teacher near me, Christ Jesus revealed in me, the Hope of Glory: Wherefore in Commiseration of such as are seeking the living among the Dead, and are wandring upon the barren Mountains, where their Souls find nothing but Leanness, am I moved of the Lord, in Tenderness to their Souls Eternal Welfare, to warn them of the false Teachers and Leaders, that they follow not the blind Leaders, lest they fall into the Ditch with them: Therefore have I given a Comparison of the True Teachers with the False, who call themselves the Ministers of Christ, but are not, which by these following Marks and Characters may be known, that so they who are truly tender, and desire to walk in the Way of the Lord and of his Commandments, may be directed therein, how to distinguish the True Doctrine of Christ and his Ministers, which is from Heaven, from the False and their Traditional Doctrine, which is from Men below; considering that it is these False Teachers, who for Want of true saving Experimental Knowledge of Christ, do teach for Doctrine the Traditions of Men, and so have caused the People to err, and do keep them under Blindness, and in Ignorance of the Truth, as it is in Jesus: Wherefore desiring that People may no longer be deceived, is this ensuing Treatise, in love unto their Immortal Souls, given forth, that such as are truly tender, and fear the Lord, may be brought to consider their Wayes, and see if they be according to the Truth, and examine whether in the Spirit and in the Truth they worship the Lord or not, learning to deny themselves, and take up their daily Cross, to follow Christ, whose Disciples they do profess to be, that they may be careful to be his true Followers, not in Shew

only, but in deed, having put on Jesus Christ, and so are cloathed with his Righteousness from within (the King's Daughter being all glorious within) that so they may be found truly in the Way of Christ, separated from Sinners, and called out of Babylon, from hearkning after the False Teachers, to be gathered into the Assembly of the Saints in light, and there to be taught of God, as all his People are and shall be, from the least to the greatest, and which all must witness, before they can truly know God, and can be able rightly to speak of God and of his Truth and Wayes, that so all who fear the Lord may consider how they hear, and what they hear, that they be not deceived, but that they may be able to come more and more to the Knowledge of the Truth, as they wait upon the Lord in the Spirit, which is promised to such, to lead them into all Truth, whereby their Feet may be guided in the Way of Peace, so may come to a certain experimental Knowledge of God and Christ, and of his Spirit revealed and witnessed in them, and so come to have the Witness of the Spirit, that they are the Children of God, and the redeemed of the Lord, out of the World, its Wayes and vain Customs, and from the false Worships thereof, to come into the Obedience of the Truth, and so may be saved, and have Eternal Life, which is had in the true Knowledge of God, and of Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent, that whoso truly believe in him, should not perish, but have Everlasting Life; which that all may come truly to know, and wait in the Way thereof, is the Desire of my Soul, who daily prayes unto the Lord, for the Gathering in of the other Sheep, which are not of this Fold, that so only the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ may be exalted over the whole Earth, and his People may be the Praise thereof, and so Sion may be redeemed with Judgment, and her Converts with Righteousness, and so all may be gathered into the Unity of the Spirit, and Bond of Peace; so that the Lord may be One and the People One over the Earth.

Godmenshead the 22d of the 9th Moneth, 1675.

N. Knight.

A COMPARISON

Between the

TRUE MINISTERS of Christ, and the *FALSE TEACHERS* that are gone forth into the World.

True Ministers.

I. NOne take this Honour upon them, but only those who are sent of God; for how shall they preach before they be sent, *Rev.* 10. 15. *Gal.* 1.1. *Heb.* 5. 4. *Mat.* 10. 5. *Luke* 10. 1. *Ioh.* 17. 8,20,21. *Luk.* 9. 1, 2.

II. True Ministers waite, first to receive the Holy Anointing and Teaching of the Holy Ghost, and firste to learn, and handle and taste of the Word of Life in themselves; and then as they have seen and experienced; so in the moving of the Spirit go forth, and as that giveth utterance, speak and declare the Word of Life unto others, and preach

False Ministers.

I. FAlse Teachers go and are not sent; bnt go forth only in their own Names without any Commission from God, only in the Will of Man. *Ier.* 14. 14. *Chap.* 23. 21, 22, 32, *Chap.* 29. 9.

II False Teachers preach a Divination of their own Brains, and say the Lord hath sent them, when he hath not, being such as come not in at the Door, but climb up another Way, and speak in the Wisdom of Mens Words, to preach pleasing things unto the People to affect their Ears (more then move their Hearts) by inticing and feigned Words,

True Ministers.

preach in the Evidence and Demonstration of the Spirit, and in Power, the Gospel of Christ, being the power of God unto Salvation; giving God the Glory of all his Works. *Acts* 1. 4, 5, 13. *chap.* 2. 1, 2, 3, 4. 1 *Joh.* 1, to 6. 1 *Cor.* 2. 4. *Act.* 8. 29. *chap.* 11. 12. *Chap.* 19 21. *Ch.* 17. 16. *Chap.* 18 5, 25. *Chap.* 2. 4. *Rom.* 11. 36. *Chap.* 16. 27. 1 *Tim.* 1. 16. 2 *Tim.* 4. 17. *Heb.* 13. 21.

III. True Ministers, as freely they have received the Gift of God, so freely they give, going about doing good, preaching the Gospel from Place to Place, from House to House, and seek not their own, but the things of God, seeking the lost Sheep of *Israel*, labouring to gather the Remnant that shall be saved, out of all the Nations, and so to preach the Everlasting Gospel, and the Glad-tidings of Salvation to the Ends of the Earth, speaking to the Edification of their Hearers. *Mat.* 10. 8. *Acts* 10. 38. *Rom.* 2. 10. *Pro.* 11. 23. *Acts* 20. 20. *Rom.* 9. 17. *Matth.* 28. 19. 1 *Cor.* 14. 2.

IV. True Ministers labour to approve themselves in Word and Doctrine, and so to be Ensamples

False Ministers.

Words; deceiving, seeking more the Praise of Men, then the Praise of God. *Jer.* 14. 14. *Joh.* 10. 1. 1 *Cor.* 2. 4, 6. *Rom.* 16. 18. *Col.* 2. 4. 2 *Pet.* 2, 3, 18. *Jude* 16. 1 *Thessal.* 2. 4. *Matth.* 6. 2. & 15. 9. & 23. 5. *John* 12. 43.

III. False Teachers seek more the Fleece then the Flock, preaching for Hire, divining for Money, and expecting Gain from their Quarters, which some People love to have so, who under pretence of long Prayers devour Widdows Houses, being like the *Scribes* and *Pharisees*, such as say and do not, not labouring to spread the Gospel; but to confine it within their own Walls, to limit the Church of Christ to a Nation, a particular Sect, or People, minding more their own Profit, then the Peoples profiting under them, blind Leaders of the Blind, and both fall into the Ditch. *Ezek.* 34. 23. *Mic.* 3. 11. *Isa.* 56. 11. *Luke* 20. 47. ver. 23. 32. *Mat.* 15 14.

IV. False Teachers hold the Truth in Hypocrisie, and Unrighteousness, taking the Words of

True Miniſters.

ſamples unto the People, in an Holy Converſation, as becometh the Goſpel, accompanied with the Fear of the Lord, ſo exhorting to follow them as they follow Chriſt. 1 *Tim.* 4. 6, 16. 2 *Tim.* 4. 2. *Joh.* 13. 15. *Phil.* 3. 17. 2 *Theſſ.* 3. 9. *Phil.* 1. 27. 1 *Cor.* 11. 1.

V. True Miniſters are inſtant in Seaſon and out of Seaſon, at all Times and Places are ready to preach the Word of God in the Synagogues, in the Market place and the high Wayes, and upon the Houſe Tops upon all Occaſions, to Single Perſons, or in Aſſemblies bigger or leſſer, are ready to diſpenſe of the Word of Life, being alwayes furniſhed out of the good Treaſure of their Hearts to give forth good things to them that hear them, and are ready to receive the Word from them, as from faithful Diſpenſers thereof, who are not willing to withold any thing of the Mind of God from them; but about to clear themſelves and to be clear from the Blood of all Men having their Feet ſhod with the Preparation of the Goſpel of Chriſt, through the Revelation of the holy Spirit

Falſe Miniſters.

of God in their Mouthes when they hate to be reformed, being ſuch as the Apoſtle admoniſheth againſt, having a Form of Godlineſs and denying the Power, from ſuch turn away, being Deceivers, and being deceived and who cauſe the Name of God to be blaſphemed, and evil ſpoaken of. *Rom.* 1. 18. *Pſ.* 50. 16, 17. 2 *Tim.* 3. 5, 13. *Ja.* 2. 7. *Rom.* 2. 23, 24.

V. Falſe Teachers are ſuch as obſerve Moneths and Dayes, and conſecrated Places, and whoſe preaching is limited to Dayes and Hours, and Hourglaſſes, and to the wills of Men, and to outward Obſervations, Traditions and Ceremonies; by their Fruits ye ſhall know them, ſaith Chriſt; for ſuch out of the evil Treaſure of their Hearts bring forth evil Things, and are an ill Savour, Clouds that hold no water, and are but as ſounding Braſs, and tinkling Cimbals. not profiting the People at all, but being weighed in the Ballance of the Sanctuary are ſtill found too light, they preaching in words to the People, what neither themſelves truly believe or underſtand, or have in Truth experienced of the word of Life in themſelves as to affirm the ſame of a Truth (as the

True Ministers.

rit of Truth, which makes known the hidden Things of God, the Mysteries of his Kingdom, the Secrets of the Lord being with them that fear him. 2 *Tim.* 4 2. & 3. 17. *Col.* 1. 25. *Eph.* 6. 15. *Col.* 1. 25.

VI. The true Ministers of Christ are ready, and willing to lay down their Lives for the Testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy, being his Witnesses, and according to his Exanple and Command learning to deny themselves, & take up their dayly Cross and follow him through good Report and bad, Tribulations, Persecutions and Temptations: chusing rather to please God then Men. *Acts* 21. 13. *Rev.* 11. 7. *Gal.* 1. 10. 1 *Thes.* 4. 1. 2 *Tim.* 2. 4. *Acts* 5. 29, 32.

VII. True Ministers will work with uheir own Hands to supply to their Occasions, rather then be burdensome to the People, notwithstanding where they sow Spiritual, they may reap of them Temporals, the Labourer being worthy of his Reward or Meat; therefore whereseoever they come, enquiring

False Ministers.

the word of God) to their Hearers, being like the silly women, who (the Apostle saith) were alwayes learning yet never able to come to the Knowledge of the Truth, it being hid from the Eyes of the World. *Gal.* 4. 10. *Luke* 7. 20. *Mark* 7. 3, 8. *Col.* 2 8. *Luke* 6. 43, 44, 45. *Jer.* 23. 32. *Rev.* 2. 2. *er.* 27. 10. &c. *Ezek* 21. 20.

VI. False Teachers flee the Cross, and are not willing to forsake all for Christ, but chuse rather to be subject to the corrupt Laws and Wills of Men, thento obey Christ in denying themselves, being such who lay heavy Burthens upon Mens shoulders, which they themselves will not bear, or touch with one of their Fingers, having Respect to their Interest, Profit, Ease and Security, counting Gain Godliness. *Mat.* 10. 38. *Gal* 5 11. & 6 12. *Luke* 11. 46. 1 *Tim.* 6. 5.

VII. False Teachers are Preachers up and Setters up of Tythes, which Christ came to put an End to, with the Law, under which only God required them to be paid, &c. and sue Men at Law, and cast into Prison for them, falsly applying Christ's Words to themselves, who are Hirelings, *The Labourer*

is

True Miniſters

ring who is worthy (according to Chriſt's Order) there they enter, whether Houſe or City, and if received their Bleſſing abides there, otherwiſe they caſt the Duſt off their Shoes againſt them, and herein only is Chriſt's Proviſion for his Miniſters, and therefore to take no Care. *Mat.* 10. 8. 1 *Cor.* 2. 12. 2 *Cor.* 11. 7. 1 *Cor.* 4. 12. & 9. 6. *Mat.* 10 12, 13, 14.

VIII. The true Miniſters of Chriſt are ſuch as he commands only to hear: Ye have Moſes and the Prophets hear them, being ſuch as he ſends to go and and teach all Nations baptizing them into the Name of Father, Son and holy Ghoſt. *Luke* 16: 29, 31. *Mat.* 28. 19. & 23. 3. *Luke* 1. 70. & 11. 49. & 24. 25, 44.

IX. The True are Miniſters of the Light, of Chriſt Jeſus the Life of Light, and declare of him the true Light, that lighteth every Man that cometh into the World, and hath given to every one a meaſure of his Spirit to profit withall, and that it is he that takes away the Sins of the World, and came to put

Falſe Miniſters

is worthy of his Hire, which he ſpake in reference to his Miniſters whom he ſent into the World to receive as he ordered them, and not by Tythes, which ceaſed by his Miniſtry, being of another Tribe, then that which received Tythes; therefore not belonging to the Miniſters he ſent; but are only claimed by falſe Teachers. *Col.* 2. 14. *Heb.* 7. 5.

VIII. Falſe Teachers, ſuch as before characterized, are ſuch as Chriſt forewarned of, & forbids to hear, and to beware of the Leven of the *Scribes* and *Phariſees*; calls to come out of Babylon (the Throne of the Beaſt, and the ſcarlet coloured Whore, who ſits as a Queen) not to partake of her Sins leſt they partake of her Plagues. *Mat.* 16. 6, 11, 12. & 7. 15. & 12. 38 *Luke* 20. 46 *Rev.* 18. 4. *Phil.* 3, 2. *Col.* 2. 8. 2 *Pet.* 3. 17.

IX. The falſe Teachers deny the Doctrine of Chriſt enlightening every one with a ſaving Light (contrary to the Scriptures of Truth) declaring only of a natural Light in all, denying the Manifeſtation of the Spirit in all, in a Meaſure to profit withall, reproaching the True Miniſters of the Light Chriſt'

True Miniſters.

an End to Sin and Tranſgreſſion, and to perfect them that are anctified through the Spirit, and ſo by Faith to give Victory over Sin and Satan unto ſuch as he hath redeemed out of the World through Faith in his Name. *Mat.* 4. 16. & 5. 14, 16. *Joh.* 14. 5, 9. & 3. 19, 20, 21. & 8. 12. & 12. 35, 36. 2 *Cor.* 4. 4. 6. *Epheſ.* 5. 8, 13. 1 *John* 1. 5. & 2. 8. 1 *Cor.* 12. 7. *Joh.* 1. 29. *Rom.* 15. 16. *Heb.* 16, 10, 14. 1 *Cor.* 15. 5, 7. 1 *Joh.* 5. 4.

X. The true Miniſters teach the Worſhip of God, ſuch as he accepts and requires, which is in Spirit and in Truth, not in Form only, but in Power according to his Will, as God and Chriſt are revealed through the Spirit in every paticular, ſo every one in the Spirit to worſhip him, as whatſoever is known of God is made manifeſt within, & Chriſt's Power is felt within; ſo in the Spirit every one to be acted in the OBEDIENCE to the

Falſe Miniſters.

Chriſt Jeſus in us the Hope of Glory: And are Perſecutors of the Children of the Light, and deny that any are made perfect and free from Sin through Chriſt in this life, preaching up the Power and Dominion of the Devils leading into Sin, above the Power of Chriſt to give Dominion and Victory through Faith over Sin in this Life, exalting their Maſter the Devil's Power (who ſtill keeps them under the Bondage of Sin) above Chriſt, who came to overcome the World, and the Devil that rules in the Hearts of the Children of Diſobedience. *Epheſ.* 2. 2. *Revelations* 12. 13. 1 *Theſſal.* 2. 15, 16. 1 *Cor.* 4. 9 *&c.*

X. The falſe Teachers are ſuch, as preach up outward Worſhip, bodily Service, outward Forms, Ceremonies and Obſervances of outward Ordinances and Traditions of Men, of Worſhip in outward Temples and conſecrated Places, and outward Conformity out of the Life and Power of Godlineſs, in Common Prayer, Service and Singing of David's Pſalms inſtead of Pſalms from every ones own Heart, in the Spirit praying to & praiſing God, pleaſing

True Miniſters.

the Truth, ſo to pray in the Spirit, and praiſe and ſing Pſalms unto God in the Spirit, which helps our Infirmities to worſhip the Lordin our Bodies, which are the Temples of the holy Ghoſt, and in our Spirits. *Joh.* 4.20. *Mark* 7. 22, 23, 24. *Rom.* 15. 13,19. 1 *Cor.* 2. 4. & 4. 19, 20.

XI. The true Miniſters preach Chriſt, the Subſtance of all Shadows & Figures, in whom they ceaſe, the one Faith which purifies the Heart, the one Baptiſm of the Spirit of Regeneration, one Lord Jeſus, Saviour and Redeemer of the world the one Name by which we are ſaved, the Bread that came down from Heaven, that who feeds thereon ſhall never hunger more, and who drinks of the water, he ſhall give ſhall never thirſt more, wherein is the true Communion of the Body and Blood of Chriſt, whoſe Body is Meat indeed, and Blood Drink indeed: One God and Father of all, which is above all, through all, and in you all; ſo none are true Chriſtians, but ſuch only, who have put on Chriſt, and hold ſpiritual Communion with Chriſt the Head of his Church, the Ground & Pillar of Truth,

Falſe Miniſters

pleaſing themſelves with an outward Melody to their Ears, with Voice and Organs &c. rather then make Melody to the Lord with his Grace in their Hearts, reproaching the Worſhip of God in Spirit, and his Worſhippers in Spirit. *Mat.* 15. 8, 9. 2 *Pet.* 3. 3.

XI. The falſe Teachers Labour and Travail is, to bring People to, and keep them in outward Communion, under the outward Profeſſion and Name of Chriſtians, to come to an outward Waſhing, Dipping and Sprinkling, to make them Chriſtians, without the Spirit ſanctifying, cleanſing and teaching, ſo to partake in outward eating of Bread, and to drink of the outward Cup of Wine; though Chriſt ſaid, he would drink no more the Fruit of the Vine till he drank it new with them (mark) in his Fathers Kingdom; yet notwithſtanding all who joyn with them in their outward Communion they own and receive as Members of the Church of Chriſt, although they are ſuch as diſcern not the Lord's Body and know not the Virtue of his Death and Reſurrection ſo that their

True Ministers.

Truth, so with the Saints in Light have their Fellowship, and with the Father and the Son. *Eph.* 4. 4, 5, 6. *Joh.* 6. 31, 32, 34, 35, 51, 58. *Joh.* 4. 34. & 6. 27, 55. 1 *Cor.* 10. 16, 17. *Eph.* 1. 22. 1 *Tim.* 3. 15.

XII. The true Ministers rejoyce at the increase of the spiritual Kingdom of Christ, of whose Kingdom there shall be no End, and at his victory over his Enemies, the Beast and false Prophet, which he is taking and casting into the Lake of Fire and chaining up the Devil, and destroying his Kingdom of Sin: Christ who doth this, is only worthy to rule and reign, til he hath brought all his Enemies under his Feet, and those that will not have him rule over them, shall be brought before him, that he may slay them: and who will rule the Nations with a Rod of Iron, appearing now unto them, that look for him without Sin unto Salvation, whenas he will render vengeance in Flames of Fire unto them that knew him not, and delay the Time of his coming, who is not slack at his coming when the Heavens shall pass away, and the Elements melt with Heat, and the Earth shall be

False Ministers.

Fellowship is only in the World and with the World, and do not what God requireth at their Hands. *Rom.* 14. 7. *Matthew* 26. 29. 1 *Cor.* 11. 29. *John* 8. 44.

XII. The False Ministers are Preachers up of the Kingdom of the Beast and False Prophet, which must have an End; and are Persecutors of all those who have not received the Name of the Beast, or Number of his Name, nor his Mark in Hand and Forehead, but have received only the Seal of the Lord in their Foreheads, the white Stone and new Name; they are such as are Bewailers of the Fall of the great City *Babylon*, whose Destruction draweth near, and shall come on a Day, and be burnt with Fire; they are such whose Trading & Merchandize dependeth on her, which ascended out of the Earth, and with it and all its Works must be burned, which will not endure the Fire, wherein every Man's Work must be tryed of what Sort it is, and so as every Mans Work abides, he shall receive his Wages, and whose VVork is Hay or Stubble, it will be consumed, and whose VVork burns shall loose, and the

True Miniſters.

be burned; but we look for a new Heaven and a new Earth, wherein dwelleth Righteouſneſs. *Acts* 6. 7. *Ioh.* 18. 36. *Luke* 1. 33. 1 *Theſſ.* 2. 12. *Mat.* 4. 23. *Rev.* 19. *Heb.* 9. 28. *Luke* 21, 22. 2 *Theſſ.* 1. 8. 2 *Pet.* 3.

True Miniſters.

the falſe Prophet with the Beaſt ſhall be caſt into the Lake of Fire; ſo at the appearing of the Lord ſhall the Kings of the Earth and great Men, &c. hide themſelves among the Rocks of the Mountains, from the Preſence of him that ſitteth upon the Throne, *Rev.* 13. 15. *&c.* & 20. 3, 4. & *Chap.* 18. 1 *Cor.* 3. 11. 13. *&c.* *Rev.* 6. 12. *&c.*

The

The Concluſion.

Friends,

For whoſe ſake I have been moved in the Power of the Lord, to draw out this precedent Compariſon, between the True Miniſters and the falſe and pretended Miniſters of Chriſt, wherein as in a Glaſs, the one and the other may ſee their Faces, whether they be truly Chriſt's or Anti chriſt's Miniſters, whether called and ſent of God, or whether of Man and by Man only, and run before they are ſent; whether the Goſpel they preach be that of Chriſt, or another Goſpel of Anti-chriſt's ſetting up & decreeing, whether they are led by the Spirit of Chriſt or of Anti-chriſt; whether they be ſuch as go forth upon Chriſt's Commiſſion, *Freely ye have received, freely give,* or ſuch as go forth in your own Wills, expecting Gain from your Quarters, making the Goſpel chargeable, whenas Chriſt calls to come buy of him freely, without Price and without Money (ye make Merchandize of the Words of God) conſider whether ye be Miniſters of the Letter or of the Spirit; whether ſuch as ſeek and rejoyce at the Increaſe of Chriſt's Kingdom, or ſuch who labour to ſuppreſs it, and perſecute the Subjects of it; whether ye be ſuch Diſciples of Chriſt, who have learned to deny your ſelves, and take up your daily Croſs, and follow him, or ſuch Hypocrites, who in Words draw nigh him, but in your Works deny him before Men; whether there be not a more excellent Way then ye teach and walk in, which only the true Servants of Chriſt teach and walk in: I ſhall deſire you in the Bowels of Love to your Souls, ſeriouſly and impartially, without Prejudice, to conſider and weigh the Premiſes, cleared and witneſſed to by the Holy Scriptures, written by the Holy Men of God, the Prophets and Apoſtles, whom I hope ye will believe: And all ye who are erred and ſtrayed from the Truth, conſider your Foundation on which you ſtand, ſee whether your Houſe be built upon the Rock, as never to be ſhaken, or on the Sand, ſubject by the Waves and Storms to be

thrown down; wherefore consider your Wayes, bring your Deeds to the Light, to see whether they be wrought in God or nay, which if not, know, unless ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish with the Scarlet Whore, the great City *Babylon*, and be taken with the Beast and false Prophet, and cast into the Lake of Fire, seeing you will abide in Spiritual *Babylon*, and neglect the Call of God to come forth of her, ye shall partake of her Plagues with her: This is a Warning from the Lord to you, to consider your Wayes and your latter End, that ye may be gathered out of the World, that ye may not perish with the World; So ye of the *Episcopal* Perswasion, consider whose Ministers ye are, your Call and Commission, and whether in your Consciences you believe God is on your Side, & will Justifie you above all other pretended Ministers of Christ of any other Perswasion, and whether your Lives and Doctrines will plead for you or against you; God will not be mocked, who will deal righteous Judgment according to your Deeds. Ye Ministers of the *Presbyterian* Perswasion, do ye think ye shall go away more Justified? are ye standing in God's Will and Call, or your own? are ye out of the Self seeking Spirit of Tything? seek ye not *your Gain from your Quarters*, and *love ye not the Praise of Men before the Praise of God*? and are ye Ensamples to your Flocks? have you learned to *deny your selves, and take up your daily Cross, and follow Christ*, and seek ye not Preheminence above your Brethren? examine and amend your Wayes, lest ye likewise perish. And ye the Pastors of the *Independent* Congregations, how firm is your standing? are ye called by the Spirit of Christ to be his Ministers, or called by the Elders and People? have they a Discerning who have received the Anointing of the holy Ghost? have they Power of laying on of Hands, to make Ministers of Christ, who have itching Ears, and heap up Teachers after their own Lusts? do you Ministers preach freely, expect no Hire? are ye low and humble, like Christ? preach you not in your own Wisdom of Words, as others? and deny you not, with others, Immediate Revelation, and the Spirits giving Utterance to the true Prophets of Christ, who *speak in Power, and in the Evidence and Demonstration of the Spirit*? Consider wherein ye likewise differ from the true Ministers of Christ, his Gospel and Life, and reform.

Ye Teachers of the *Baptists* and others, called *Gifted Brethren*, consider whether you have received the Gift of the Holy Ghost, to make you able Ministers of the New Testament; are ye taught of God first, and then as ye have seen and tasted and handled of the Word of Life, in the Leading and Moving of the Spirit of Truth, in the Power of the Lord, *go forth to teach all Nations, baptizing them into the Name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost*, and so speak and declare, as the Spirit gives Utterance, not seeking your own but Christ's, see ye be not found short also of the Kingdom of Heaven, revealed and made manifest within, try your Spirits, whether they be of God or no.

But it will or may be objected by the Teachers of these several Perswasions, *judge ye that none of us are called of God to be his Ministers of the New Testament and Gospel of Christ; have none of us received the Anointing of the Holy Ghost, to preach in Christ's Name? and do not we by our Zeal for the promoting of the Gospel, and the Reformation of the Church, in our Lives and Doctrine, according to the Scriptures, and the Work of Conversion of many unto God; witness our Call and Truth of our Ministry, as Pastors of particular Congregations and Churches, &c.*

Answer, However, the Lord under the former Dispensations in their Measures of the Spirit and the Manifestations thereof, while their Hearts and Eyes were single unto God, in seeking only his Glory, and not themselves, in their Ministry and Labour in the Work of Reformation, according to what was revealed and opened unto them further of the Mind and Will of God (who worketh all his Works in Wisdom, Order and Season, there being a Seed Time and an Harvest) did then in Faithfulness dispense the VWord, as they had received it, that as many as the Lord should call might bring forth Fruit answerable, and so to grow from Faith to Faith, both Ministers and Hearers, unto the perfecting the VWork of Reformation in Life and Doctrine, learning to deny themselves, and take up their daily Cross to follow Christ, that they might bring forth Fruit unto God; the Church as by Degrees was driven into the VWilderness, so by Degrees comes forth, to be Inhabitants of the

New

New Jerusalem, descended from Heaven; so that the Lord expects and requires a proceeding forward by Degrees, as People are made capable to receive his VVord unto a more perfect Reformation, to a through Reformation, in the Leading and Power of the Spirit of Truth, unto the perfect Man in Christ Jesus, the Head and Ruler of his Church, and the only Law-Giver in the Church, and therefore is now (through the Spirit) more and more revealing the Man of Sin, the Anti-christ that opposeth all that is called of God, that so in this Day of Reformation and Restauration of all Things, as at the Beginning, his Name and Truth and Kingdom may be exalted over all, so that the Lord of the Vineyard coming to expect Fruit from the Labourers in the same, under the several Dispensations (wherein in Times of Ignorance he winked at divers Things) in the several Ages and Generations, and the Good he hath owned in the *Episcopals*, *Presbyterians*, *Independents*, *Anabaptists*, &c. and his Will was, that they should have gone forward (while his Presence in some Measure was with them) to a through-Reformation: But they taking up their Stations in Formalities, out of his pure Power, and hating and persecuthose who live in it, for this Cause God hath rejected them; so the Lord departing from them, they cannot profit the People at all, but are denyed of the Lord (to be sent of him) to be his Ministers, he having let out his Vineyard to others, of whom he expects and receives more Fruit; so that although the other, under their several Dispensations, while Faithful unto what was manifest, did see some Fruit of their Labour; but now none unto God, the Lord being departed from them, he saith unto them, *who hath required these Things of your Hands wherein you have polluted my Name*, seeking of your own, more then Gods; therefore being now as such who *having a Form of Godliness, deny the Power*, the Apostle admonisheth to turn away from: So being such as having not the Spirit, are turned aside to Fables, Quenchers of the Spirit, and Despisers of Prophesie, speaking Evil of that you understand not; for spiritual things are spiritually discerned, and only such who are in the Spirit are able to judge of them: So that all such as are

now out of the Diſpenſation of the Spirit, whereby in this Day (Bleſſed be his Name) the Lord is revealed and revealing in his Word and Truth unto a Remnant, walking and waiting in the Light of Chriſt Jeſus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life; thoſe who are not Miniſters of the Light and Life of Chriſt, are none of Chriſts Miniſters in the Spirit; and ſuch convert not any unto God, nor bring not to the Reſtoration, but are blind Leaders of the blind, and both fall into the Ditch, where they may lie long, crying, Lord help, without endeavouring to ariſe out by true Repentance and turning unto the Lord in his Light, that they may receive Life and Power to become the Children of God, and to be taught by him, *for all his Children are taught by him*, the Inſpiration of the Almighty giving Wiſdom to thoſe, who in the Silence of all Fleſh draw nigh to him, and wait upon him, to learn of him who is meek and humble; and the humble he will teach the wayes wherein they ſhould walk, whoſe wayes are wayes of Peace, and lead to everlaſting Peace and Righteouſneſs forever, when as to the wicked, and ſuch as reſiſt and reproach his Truth, deſpiſe his Word, and turn it behind their Backs, and hate to be reformed and converted unto the Lord, there is no Peace, ſaith my God.

And all People, Conſider whom ye follow, what Teachers ye learn of, whether of ſuch as are truly ſent of God, or of ſuch as go forth in the Will of Man, and are not of God; beware of being ſeduced and miſ-lead, hearkening to the Voice of the falſe Shepherds, ſuch as go before they are ſent, and ſay, *Hear the word of the Lord*, when the Lord hath not *ſpoken* to them, nor doth by them, but they ſpeak their own Words, compoſing their Sermons in their own Wills and Wiſdom, or what they gather from others, not what they have learned and experienced of the word of Life in themſelves, and ſo not in the Love to the Souls of others, deſiring others ſhould have Fellowſhip with them, in the conſtraining and moving of the Spirit of Grace, and as that gives Utterance, according to the Wiſdom which is from above, ſo ſpeak and declare (in the Power of God) the Words of Life, as they have received freely, ſo freely to give thereof, not ſpeaking what they have ſeen, and taſted, and handled

handled of the Word of Life, and ſo are not true Guides in the way of Life, which from a certain Knowledge & Belief they can not declare of, being but a divination of their own Brain, which all falſe Teachers Preach. Now People you have had the true and the falſe Miniſters both characterized, whereby ye may be helped to know and diſtinguiſh the one from the other, and ſo in the Light which gives the true Underſtanding, ye may be able to make a true Judgment, and ſo as the Lord gives you a Diſcerning, chuſe to hear the true Teachers, and turn from the falſe, which the Lord requires of you; not to hearken and give Countenance to ſuch, which are *blind Leaders of the blind, Deceivers and Seducers, which wax worſe and worſe, which run in the way of Balaam expecting gain from their Quarters, having a form of Godlineſs and deny the Power, from ſuch turn away*; but be ye Hearers and Obeyers of God his true and faithful Miniſters who ſeek not what is yours outwardly, but you, to communicate a Gift to you, that ye may be Partakers of their Joy, and may have Fellowſhip together with them, with the Father and the Son, and to be one in the Lord, of the one Faith, and one Baptiſm, and one Bread, having Spiritual Communion with the Lord, as to drink with him the Fruit of the Vine in the Fathers Kingdom, that ſo your Joy may be full, knowing truly in whom ye believe, and whoſe voice ye hear, and that it is the Words of Life which they preach, having the Witneſs in your ſelves, who are *taught of God, and need that no man teach you, ſaving as the Annointing teacheth you*, which the Lord Jeſus promiſed to ſend to lead us into all Truth: So go not forth but wait in the Light of Chriſt, for the manifeſtation of his Power and wiſdom to work your Redemption out of Sin, for without his Power and Wiſdom in you, you can do nothing that is good, but by it the true Believer is ſtrengthened to do all which God requires of him, in which he knows Peace, & ſuch come to know thoſe who are truly ſent of him, to be Overſeers in his Church, and are to watch over you, his Flock, for good, and ſuch as muſt give an account, to God that they may do it with Joy and not with Grief, and ſuch will be worthy of double Honour, who labour in the word and Doctrine, ſeeking the praiſe of God, and not

the Praiſe of men, and *only to approve themſelves to every mans Conſcience in the Sight of God*, that what they ſpeak is not of themſelves, but from the Lord, & ſo as the word of God they receive it in faith and obey it, and ſo are not *hearers of it only, but doers of it alſo*, wherein they are juſtified; *ſo the juſt live by faith* (which is the gift of God) in the Son of God, and ſo hear only his voice within them, and from his Miniſters ſent by him, and are not aſhamed to hear them, but are *ſwift to hear, and ſlow to ſpeak*; but as the Spirit opens the mouth and giveth Utterance to declare of the Things they have *ſeen and heard and have taſted of*, ſo all may Propheſy, as they receive the gift to Edification of others; God having Promiſed in the Latter Days *to Pour out his Spirit upon all Fleſh, that Sons and Daughters Servants and Hand-maids may Propheſie*; yet all are not Prophets, but only ſuch on whom the Spirit of Propheſie is poured forth; ſo all are not Miniſters Evangeliſts and Apoſtles, but only ſuch whom the Lord ſends, and who go forth in the Spirit of our God, and in the Leading and Guidance thereof, to what Perſons, Nations or People the Lord ſhall ſend them; ſo *how beautiful are the Feet of them who bring Glad Tidings of Salvation*; and bleſſed are they that come in the Name of the Lord, and in hearing of them there is Joy, and Comfort and Peace, whenas the falſe Guides lead to Deſtruction, and their VVayes are VVayes of Death, and their End Everlaſting VVo and Miſery; wherefore Friends, beware whom you hear, and what you hear; for there have been and are many falſe Teachers and Deceivers gone forth into the VVorld, which (as Chriſt long ſince forewarned) if poſſible *ſhould deceive the very Elect*; but ſaith he, *Go not forth, the Word is nigh which we preach*, ſaith the Apoſtle, *the Word of Faith in your Hearts and Mouthes, that who give Heed thereto, as to a Light ſhining in a dark Place, until the Day dawn, and the Day-Star ariſe in their Hearts*, ſhall never be deceived, nor have any Occaſion of ſtumbling; for they that ſtumble ſtumble in the dark, becauſe they ſee not, and know not whether they are going, and ſo fall into the Ditch.

Wherefore Friends, in a Diſcerning of the true Teacher, all coming to witneſs your being taught of God, cry to him ſtill, that he

he would direct you in his Wayes, wherein he would have you to walk, that ye may not go astray from his Commandments, but walk in them; and so keep close to the Word of Life, revealed and made manifest in you, that ye should walk thereby, and be led into the sure Pathes that lead unto Life; and stop not your Ears against this Word, but be diligent Hearers and Followers of it, in the Love of it, then will ye not be ashamed to make Profession of it, and Confession unto it, in bearing your Witness for it, but will have a Testimony for it against all the false Ministers and Professions; and so as your Lives answer thereunto, ye will glorifie your Maker, *singing a Song of* Sion, *and witness your Redeemer liveth*, who hath called you out of the false VVayes and Forms, and chosen you unto himself, to *place his Name in you, and to be his peculiar People, zealous of good Works, and that Men may see your good Works wrought in Christ, and may glorifie your Father in Heaven*; so will ye be Christ's Disciples indeed, learning of him *to deny your selves, and take up your daily Cross, and follow him*, so his Truth will be witnessed unto by you, who live and walk in it, and hereby *through Faith shall ye overcome the World*, your Adversaries be made ashamed, and their Mouthes stopped, and they shall have nothing justly to say against you, who otherwise are ready to *blaspheme the Holy Name whereby we are called*; so in the Separation from the false Teachers, in waiting upon the Lord in the Light, *ye will come to know your Teacher which shall not need to go into a Corner, but will preach on the House Top.*

A Postscript.

SO Friends, both Ministers so call'd and People, as ye would truly be Christ's Disciples and Followers, learn ye to deny your selves, your Interests, Profits and unlawful Callings, which as your right Hand causes you to offend, which cut off, and take up your daily Cross, to follow him; for *it will be better to enter into Heaven maimed, then the whole Body should be cast into Hell*; for what ye may account unto your selves Loss, will be your greater Gain, and *the Lord will withhold no good Thing from them that fear him, and put their Trust in him*; for the Lord knows how to give good Things unto his Children: Therefore be not discouraged, or faint in the VVay, but believe, and ye shall see greater VVorks then these, the sick healed, the lame made to walk, the deaf to hear, and blind to see, and Mountains removed, and all stumbling Blocks taken away, your Sins pardoned, and Souls saved, through the Name of Jesus Christ, by whom ye shall be made able to overcome the VVorld, and have Power over him that ruleth in the VVorld, and so come to be Christ's Disciples indeed; & then it will not repent ye to have forsaken any Thing for Christ, as to lay down Livings, deny your Ministry, which is out of the Power of Christ, to come to learn anew in Christ's School, and to receive his Power before ye go forth to preach; & so ye People will *come to despise the Reproach and Malice of the World for the Name of Jesus, and will rather rejoyce that ye are in any kind counted worthy to suffer for his Name and Truth, in forsaking the false Teachers and blind Leaders, which ye have so long followed without Profit and growing in the Faith, in Hazard of falling into the Ditch with them and perishing; strait is the Way, and narrow the Gate that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it, which strive to enter into, forsaking the broad Way that leads unto Destruction, that ye perish not with the Multitude that runneth into Evil. So Farewel.*

Nicholas Knight.

299457